

The EUROGRADUATE Pilot Survey

Background, state, next steps, and perspectives

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IHS
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Project background

- Political challenges for higher education (Yerevan Communiqué 2015; EC 2017)
 - Better match of higher education & labour market needs
 - Societal relevance: strengthen civil societies, contribute to social cohesion, tolerance, democratic values
 - Contribute to innovation & growth
 - Perception of insufficient data & lack of transparency on higher education graduates (e.g. EUA 2017; EC 2017)
 - National-level surveys too heterogeneous to compare
 - International data (e.g. EU-LFS, PIAAC) limited by small number of respondents and/or lack of information on higher education
- Idea to set up a European graduate survey

Project background II

- EUROGRADUATE feasibility study (10/2013-03/2016):
 - Strong demand for European graduate study
 - Design for a potential European graduate survey
 - Test-run in a pilot survey
- EUROGRADUATE pilot survey: 01/2018-10/2019
- Funded by the European Commission
- Key goal: Test & prepare potential full roll-out

Project organisation

- DG Education (European Commission)
- Pilot countries & further interested countries
- Stakeholder organisations: EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ESAA

Advisory
board



Coordination



Internat.
project
consortium

Ken Mayhew (University of Oxford), Stephanie Eckman (RTI International), Jan Koucky (Charles University)

Scientific
committee

Project tasks: Pilot surveys

- Pilot surveys in 8 countries (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Norway & possibly Malta)
 - Graduates of academic years 2012/13 & 2016/17
 - 5.000 contacts per cohort & country
 - Graduates of ISCED 5, 6 & 7 programmes
 - If academic ISCED 5 degrees & if offered by higher education institutions
 - Regardless of organizational mode (e.g. long-distance or joint degree) & enrolment status (e.g. part- or fulltime)
 - All types of institutions regardless of legal status (public, private) & orientation (general or professional)
 - No programmes that are part of an employment, e. g. military or police academies, public administration programmes
 - No ISCED 8

Project tasks: Pilot surveys

- Questionnaire content
 1. Education history: e.g. study programme, grade, mode of teaching & learning, evaluation of programme, further activities during studying, previous education, continued studying
 2. Work history & current employment: e.g. transition to employment, job search, occupation, position in job, working hours, earnings, adequacy
 3. Competencies: required level at work, own level (self-assessments)
 4. Regional & international mobility
 5. Social outcomes: health, trust, happiness, attitudes towards democracy, political participation, voluntary work

Project tasks: Pilot surveys

- Survey design
 - Sampling framework set up by national research teams guided by consortium
 - Random samples (if applicable)
 - Modes for first contact & reminders may differ between countries (online, postal, mix)
 - Online surveys
 - Centralised hosting of the computer-assisted-interview (CAI) framework
 - Field phase: Sept. 21st to Dec. 15th

Project tasks

- Data collection strategy for Erasmus+ countries
 - Check data collection conditions for 33 countries (EU28 + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Norway, Turkey)
 - Is contact information available? What kind & quality of contact information? Where is it stored? Can it be integrated in a central database? Can it be combined with a central address register?
 - Is random sampling applicable (size of cohort)? How can sampling be conducted?
 - Which existing graduate surveys need to be considered? How to coordinate existing graduate surveys with a European survey?
 - Interest to participate in full roll-out
- (Re-)Assess feasibility of full roll-out & give recommendations on how to conduct a European graduate survey

Workpackages & schedule

[illegible]

Main products

- *Comparative synthesis report* on main topics of EUROGRADUATE pilot survey
- Concise *national reports* on findings in pilot countries
- *Technical report*: implementation of survey in pilot countries, technical assessment of pilot surveys, data collection conditions in Erasmus+ countries, evaluation of feasibility of full roll-out & recommendations
- *Scientific Use File* of survey data
- To be expected by end of 2019/start of 2020

Further information & updates?

- www.eurograduate.eu